

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Final Office Action of April 27, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 14, and 15 are hereby amended and claims 18-35 are hereby canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-17 are currently pending (of which, claims 7-9, 16, and 17 are currently withdrawn from consideration). Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated April 27, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 18-20, 23-25, 27-30, 33, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the related art shown in Figures 3 and 4 in view of Shin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,259,504) and De Keyzer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,157,527); rejected claims 21, 22, 31, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the related art shown in Figures 4 and 5 in view of Shin et al. and De Keyzer et al. and further in view of Shiba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,526,014); allowed claims 1-6 and 10-15; and objected to claims 26 and 35 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-6 and 10-15 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 26 and 35. By the present amendment, Applicants hereby cancel claims 18-35 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

Application No.: 09/784,093
Amendment dated July 27, 2004
Reply to final Office Action dated April 27, 2004

Docket No.: 8733.398.00-US

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: July 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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